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***NEWS From:***

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## **Congressman Mike Honda**

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### **Reps. Honda & Tauscher Urge Airlines to Offer Reduced Rates to Military Personnel**

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2003 — Today, **U.S. Reps. Mike Honda** (D – San Jose) and **Ellen Tauscher** (D-Walnut Creek) introduced a House Resolution urging every U.S. airline to offer all members of the U.S. armed forces on active duty reduced air fares comparable to the lowest air fare for ticketed flights, in order for these soldiers to more easily visit their loved ones, and not be penalized for their unpredictable work schedules.

“Our troops put their lives on the line to defend our nation; they should not be penalized or burdened because their jobs require erratic travel on short notice,” said **Rep. Honda**. “**I am very optimistic that the airline industry will heed our call, and find a way to make it easier for our military personnel to see their families.**”

Reps. Honda and Tauscher are working closely with **Blue Star Moms**, an organization based in San Ramon, Calif., comprised of mothers who have sons and daughters in the military. They are rightfully passionate about this cause, because they know first-hand the difficulty their children encounter when purchasing tickets to return home. [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org)

“We are doing this for the benefit of our sons and daughters in the military; they deserve the opportunity to see their families — and the costs should not be so prohibitive,” said **Liz Taylor-Weber, Vice President of Blue Star Moms**

Following is the text of the resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that United States air carriers should establish for all members of the Armed Forces on active duty reduced air fares that are comparable to the lowest airfare for ticketed flights, and for other purposes. Whereas the Armed Forces is

comprised of approximately 1,400,000 members who are stationed on active duty at more than 6,000 military bases in 146 different countries;

Whereas the United States is indebted to the members of the Armed Forces, many of whom are in grave danger due to their engagement in, or exposure to, combat;

Whereas military service, especially in the current war against terrorism, often requires members of the Armed Forces to be separated from their families on short notice, for long periods of time, and under very stressful conditions;

Whereas the unique demands of military service often preclude members of the Armed Forces from purchasing discounted advance airline tickets in order to visit their loved ones at home; and

Whereas it is the patriotic duty of the people of the United States to support the members of the Armed Forces who are defending the Nation's interests around the world at great personal sacrifice: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that each United States air carrier should—

- (1) establish for all members of the Armed Forces on active duty reduced air fares that are comparable to the lowest airfare for ticketed flights;and
- (2) offer flexible terms that allow members of the Armed Forces on active duty to purchase, modify, or cancel tickets without time restrictions, fees, and penalties.